

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 STATE 067500
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY AMMAN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY CAIRO IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY JIDDA IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT IMMEDIATE
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T STATE 067500

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MOPS PEPR IS LE

SUBJECT: ISRAELI MILITARY ACTION IN SOUTH LEBANON

1. THE SECRETARY SPOKE TO REPORTERS ABOUT THE CURRENT
SITUATION FOR A FEW MOMENTS AFTER LEAVING THE WHITE HOUSE
ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES:

-- ASKED ABOUT THE DANGER OF THE SYRIANS GETTING INVOLVED,
THE SECRETARY POINTED OUT THAT THE SYRIAN FORCES ARE
NORTH OF THE LITANI AND THAT THEY WERE FAR DISTANT FROM
SECRET

SECRET

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THE PRINCIPAL ISRAELI FORCES. HE ASSUMED THAT SEPARATION
WOULD CONTINUE AND HE HOPED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PROBLEM.

-- ASKED WHETHER THE U.S. HAD CALLED FOR A HALT IN THE
FIGHTING, THE SECRETARY SAID NO. HE HAD SOME FOLLOW-UP
QUESTIONS TO WHICH HE GAVE ESSENTIALLY THE SAME ANSWER.

-- WHEN ASKED AT WHAT TIME BEGIN'S MESSAGE TO THE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCING THE ISRAELI ATTACK HAD BEEN DELIVERED, THE SECRETARY SAID IT HAD ARRIVED VIRTUALLY SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH THE ONSET OF THE ATTACK, WITHIN ABOUT 15 MINUTES.

-- WHEN ASKED HIS VIEWS TOWARDS THIS IDF OPERATION, HE RESPONDED THAT INCIDENTS LIKE THE ISRAELI ATTACK AND REPEAT AND THE TERRORIST RAID INTO ISRAEL LAST WEEKEND WERE IMPEDIMENTS TO PEACE.

2. PRESS REPORTS WE HAVE SEEN OF THESE TALKS ARE REASONABLY ACCURATE IN TENOR.
VANCE

SECRET

NNN

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